

9. (Once Amended) The method for marking articles according to any of claims [1 -7] 1-6, characterised in that generating private keys, data encrypting, generating a random image, applying the image on to the marked surface, reading the resulting image and applying the encrypted code on to the marked surface is performed by the marking means;

data transferring to the control center is also effected by the marking means, while at least keys are transferred to the control center through the path ensuring confidentiality;

the control center stores the keys and codes in the database.

any one of claims

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3-2305 10. The method for marking articles according to claim 2-8, characterized in that

- generating private keys; data encrypting and storing is effected in the remote control center;
- applying the image, modifying the surface texture with the applied image, scanning the resulting image and applying the code is performed by the marking device;
- data exchange between the marking means and the control center is performed over communication channels.

11. The method for marking articles according to claim 1, characterized in that

- generating private keys; data encrypting, as well as applying the image, scanning the resulting image and applying the code is performed by the marking device;
- the marking means transmits the data on the image to the control center, which stores them in the database; at least the keys are transferred to the control center by the path ensuring confidential transmission.

- transferring data on the readout image to the remote control center;
- generating private keys;
- encoding the obtained unique image data by means of private keys;
- transferring the encoded image to the marking station;
- applying the resulting code on to the marking surface;
- storing the keys in the control center database;
- verifying the existence and the pattern of the texture on the marking surface; and then
- test reading the marking image and the applied code;
- transferring the readout image data and the code to the control center;
- decrypting the code data and recovering the readout image data;
- comparing the recovered data on the image received after the check reading;
- transferring the results of comparing to the checking terminal.

Claim or

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18. The method for authentication according to claims 16, 17, characterized in that the data on the performed tests are stored in the control center, the number of the same code tests being summarized, and when the set value is exceeded, a signal warning on the exceedence is produced.

19. The system for authentication of articles according to claim 1, comprising a marking means, including

- a printer,
- a printer control device,
- a readout device,
- an image processing unit,
- a communication means; and
- a remote processing and storage center, comprising,
- a key generating unit,
- an encrypting/decrypting unit,
- a memory unit,
- a compare facility, and

blank parts for labels,

characterized in that the marking device further includes